BC GAMES

2011-2012 YEAR IN REVIEW

opportunity development preparation

Photography by Kevin Bogetti-Smith / Volunteers of the 2012 BC Winter Games

achievement competition participation

"To provide an opportunity for the development of athletes, coaches, and officials in preparation for higher levels of competition in a multi-sport event which promotes interest and participation in sport and sporting activities, individual achievement, and community development."

Board of Directors 2011-2012

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When one considers the thousands of large and small details required to plan and implement a BC Winter Games, it is a compliment of immense proportions to state that "these Games were the best BC Winter Games ever."

An incredibly dedicated team of 2210 volunteers ensured the 1124 athletes, 228 coaches, and 152 officials had every need fulfilled. From serving over 16,000 meals or arranging a fleet of 33 local buses, to coordinating the nine dormitories and 120 sleeping areas, volunteers certainly did it all with a sense of community pride and incredible hospitality.

The pride of involvement extended to the desire for lasting legacies to the community. Volunteers received training which will benefit not only the individual volunteer, but the Greater Vernon region. Specifically, the WorldHost® Ambassador program and the Youth Ambassador program provided skills and experiences to volunteers who will be leaders in the community for years to come.

Greater Vernon received a $525,000 provincial investment that was supported by an additional $488,000 of cash and in-kind support raised by the Host Community from local government and business. As a result of that support, and through thoughtful planning, their overall budget is expected to yield a surplus of approximately$175,000.

The Provincial Sport Organizations also worked tirelessly to bring their best young athletes, learned coaches, and educated officials. Each of these participants, whether looking for a spot on a provincial team, a Canada Games appearance or beyond, worked toward their personal best. Sports attending the Games brought 83% of their eligible athletes, while having 88% of their head coaches appropriately certified.

Integral to the success of the BC Games Society is its ability to leverage new resources to support our provincial work. Acknowledging and welcoming the consistent investment made by the Province of BC, the BC Games Society was pleased to welcome Black Press to our corporate family, joining Global BC and Jazz Aviation.

The Board of Directors and staff of the BC Games Society wish to acknowledge the support of the Province of BC. The attendance of Premier Christy Clark, Minister Ida Chong, and their colleagues at the Vernon Games meant so very much to the volunteers who gave of their time for that success.

Cathy Priestner Allinger
Chair, BC Games Society

overview of the year

greater vernon 2012 bc winter games

To host the BC Winter Games takes dedication, patience, and generosity and the entire Greater Vernon area brought those pieces together to stage a very successful event from February 23-26. Top level athletes were treated to superior facilities and received enthusiastic support from the over 2200 volunteers. The leadership shown by Games' President Akbal Mund and Vice President Jim McEwan over 24 months of planning ensured athletes, coaches, officials, spectators, and volunteers alike were treated to an event all of Vernon can take pride in.

Your time to shine!

greater vernon
2012 BC WINTER GAMES

It was truly "Your Time to Shine".

"We are all very proud of the accomplishments of hosting the BC Winter Games yet, it would not be possible without the BC Games Society team. What we do with the tools and suggestions you provide is what makes these Games go. Please know that we will always be fans and supporters of the BC Games."

Akbal Mund, President and Jim McEwan, Vice President
Greater Vernon 2012 BC Winter Games

"The people of the North Okanagan embraced their role as hosts and ambassadors with pride and enthusiasm. I share their pride. I share their enthusiasm. It was a great weekend for Vernon and for all the athletes who competed."

Eric Foster, MLA for Vernon Monashee

Greater Vernon took advantage of the BC Winter Games opportunity to provide two programs to develop community leaders and ambassadors.

87 volunteers received training from the WorldHost Ambassador program. This internationally recognized program is the standard for service excellence delivery. BC Winter Games hosts learned how to become ambassadors for their region and provide excellent hospitality at Games time, thus encouraging repeat visits to the region. With Vernon's reputation for hosting excellent events, these ambassadors will be a lasting legacy from the BC Games.

A local initiative to involve youth as volunteers at the BC Games, led to the creation of the Youth Ambassador Program.

community ambassadors

27 grade 10 students from five local high schools were chosen to take part in the program that provided leadership training and experiences. The goal of the program was to involve students who were not already in leadership programs but had a great potential to grow and be inspired.

"It's a really cool opportunity to get out into the community and help out."

Angus Gobell, Youth Ambassador

For many young athletes, competing at a BC Games is the first opportunity to test themselves against the best in their sport from across the province. Often, it is their first opportunity to commit to work with a qualified coach such as Garry Ricks. Garry is a Level 3 Certified Coach and the Head Coach at Key City Gymnastics in Cranbrook for the past 12 years.

garry ricks - committed coach

"The BC Games are an important starting point for young athletes to compete and experience a multisport event. It has always been a great step in our young athlete's careers," said Garry.

"Not many people can say they have gone to a BC Winter Games, and I feel the more kids I can coach to compete at that level, the more it develops the character of the athlete."

Garry also sees the Games as a unique opportunity to network with coaches from across the province and for athletes to break club lines and bond with the zone team athletes from their area.

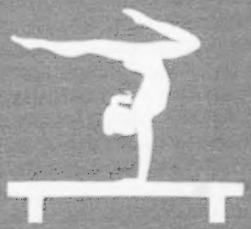
For the 2010 BC Winter Games, Garry took part in the Coach Mentorship Program as a mentor coach to Allison Browne, a young apprentice coach in Cranbrook. "It was a great experience for me and Allison. She was new to coaching Gymnastics and I was able to help her develop and implement a training, conditioning, and routine development program for our athletes. After the Games she was so pumped with great ideas and had more confidence when we got back in the gym."

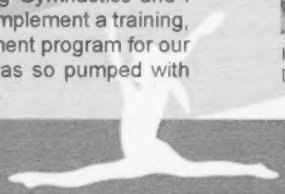
For Garry, the Opening Ceremony at the BC Games never ceases to amaze. "It's the greatest feeling to see the faces of your athletes entering the arena for the first time. It is really overwhelming and it is a proud moment to know that all of the hard work has paid off."

At the 2012 BC Winter Games, it was a family affair for Garry as he was joined by wife Michelle, the Provincial Advisor for Gymnastics BC. He coached his niece Madyson, in the gymnastics competition and sister-in-law Melanee supported the team as an Adult Supervisor.

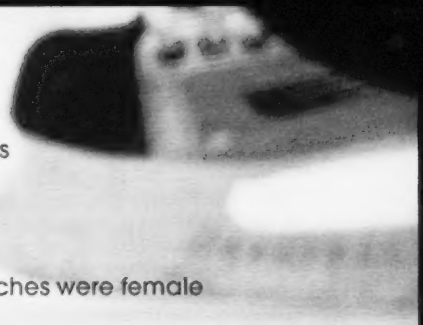
Leading teams to 17 different BC Games, Garry Ricks is a shining example of coaches making a difference in the lives of young athletes.

Kootenay Zone 1 coach Garry Ricks and gold medalist Leanne Perrich at the BC Winter Games.





coaches and officials



286 Coaches

56% of Coaches were female

88% of Head Coaches achieved required certification *(NCCP Level 2 or equivalent)*

167 Officials

58% of Officials were female

"A coach's preparation for the BC Games, or any other competitive environment, is just as important as an athlete's preparation. Every successful athlete has been trained by someone who has taken the time to learn about the technical aspects of their sport and how to prepare their athletes both mentally and physically."

Laura Watson, Technical Director, Coaches BC and Fraser Valley Zone 3 Ringette Coach

Provincial Sport Organizations that are part of the BC Games commit to making the Games an integral part of athlete, coach and officials development. Karate BC has taken, that commitment to the next level and maximized the development opportunity through two unique programs.

karate bc

In 2004, the Junior Officials program was initiated to bring young officials to the Games to receive training, mentorship, and ultimately certification. Over the past five BC Winter Games, international and national level officials have attended the Games to provide this valuable instruction. Initially, there were doubts about whether these young officials would have the maturity to officiate at a provincial competition, but the program has been incredibly successful. Athletes at the Games now aspire not only to compete at the Games but also to excel as an official.

At the 2012 BC Winter Games, a Junior Coaches' program was implemented for the first time bringing 16 and 17 year old coaches to the Games to learn important skills, strategies, and responsibilities. Through this mentorship program a group of quality, enthusiastic coaches is being developed.

Karate BC also has excelled at developing athletes throughout the province and over two years increased their athlete participation by 10% with 82 athletes competing from seven zones. These athletes have some remarkable alumni to look up to including Victoria Barusic (2008 BC Winter Games) who was a gold medalist at the Commonwealth Championships and Shaun Dhillon (2002 BC Winter Games) a 2011 Pan American Games Gold medalist.

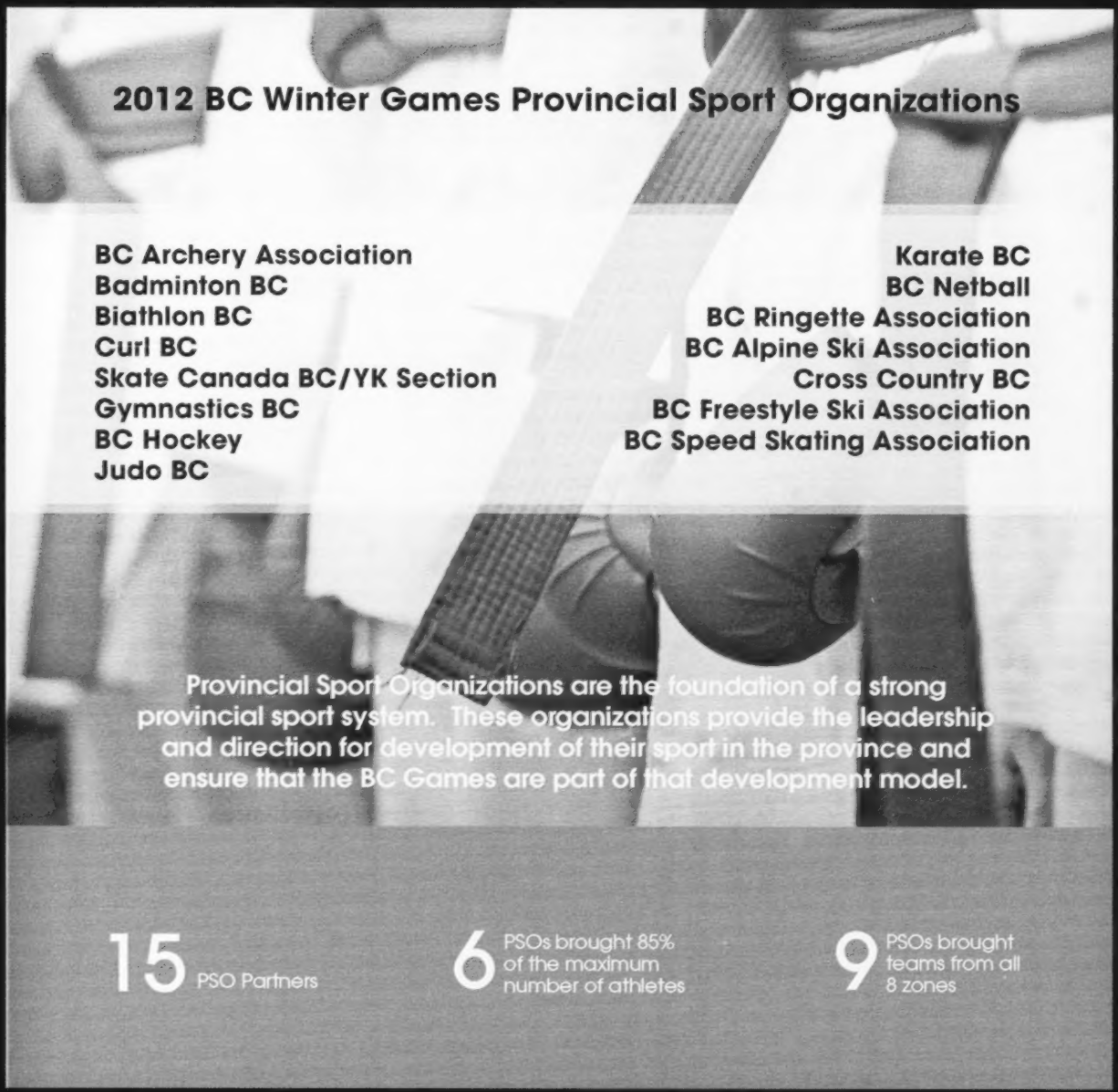
The combination of athlete, coach, and officials development for junior Karate participants will contribute to the long-term growth of the sport. Karate BC is a true leader and valued partner of the BC Games Society.

KARATE 道 BC

sports

"I have been participating at the BC Winter Games since 1981 and have yet to be disappointed with the way the Games are conducted. The BC Winter Games are a wonderful experience for our athletes, coaches, and officials and I thank you for making this such a positive experience for all of us."

Fernando Correia, Provincial Advisor Karate



2012 BC Winter Games Provincial Sport Organizations

BC Archery Association
Badminton BC
Biathlon BC
Curl BC
Skate Canada BC/YK Section
Gymnastics BC
BC Hockey
Judo BC
Karate BC
BC Netball
BC Ringette Association
BC Alpine Ski Association
Cross Country BC
BC Freestyle Ski Association
BC Speed Skating Association

Provincial Sport Organizations are the foundation of a strong provincial sport system. These organizations provide the leadership and direction for development of their sport in the province and ensure that the BC Games are part of that development model.

15 PSO Partners

6 PSOs brought 85% of the maximum number of athletes

9 PSOs brought teams from all 8 zones

Volunteers 2012

"I would highly recommend volunteering for anyone who wants to get out and meet new people and experience the [illegible] of watching kids compete at a high level."
Melody Ames, Volunteer Host, Brayden Venue

2210 Volunteers

407 under 19

87 trained as WorldHost® Ambassadors

27 Youth Ambassadors

60% female

100% would recommend volunteering to a friend

Vernon's own Connie Kapak was the darling of the 2012 BC Winter Games. Starting off the countdown to the Games in November, Kapak ran through the streets of Vernon to officially light the BC Games Torch with MLA Eric Foster.

olympian in the making

That began the anticipation of racing in her chosen sport of speed skating in her hometown during the BC Winter Games. Kapak is a 13-year-old dynamo with many impressive wins in her young career. She didn't disappoint at the BC Winter Games taking home four medals including two golds and in the process set a new BC Games record in the 400 meters.

Kapak, who has been racing for ten years, said she loves the speed part of speed skating. One of the sport's biggest boosters, she said, "I want to tell other athletes that if they want to try a sport, as a hobby or a sport to compete in, try speed skating. It's lots of fun and really challenging."

Following the BC Winter Games, Kapak pocketed five gold medals and the female overall trophy at the Western Canadian Championships in Winnipeg.

To support Kapak's travel and training expenses, BC Winter Games President Akbal Mund and Vice President Jim McEwan organized a fundraiser at the Vernon Boston Pizza. Pete Kapak, Connie's father commented that, "Had it not been for the BC Winter Games, Connie would not have had the community support for the promotion event at Boston Pizza."

Akbal Mund said, "She's going to be an Olympian one day, and we're trying to help her get there."

Kapak is following in the blades of other BC Games alumni who have gone on to represent Canada on the world stage. Courtney Shmyr, Scott Bickerton and sisters Josie and Tori Spence are all alumni to watch over the next few years.

Connie Kapak with teammates at the Opening Ceremony for the Greater Vernon 2012 BC Winter Games

bc games athletes

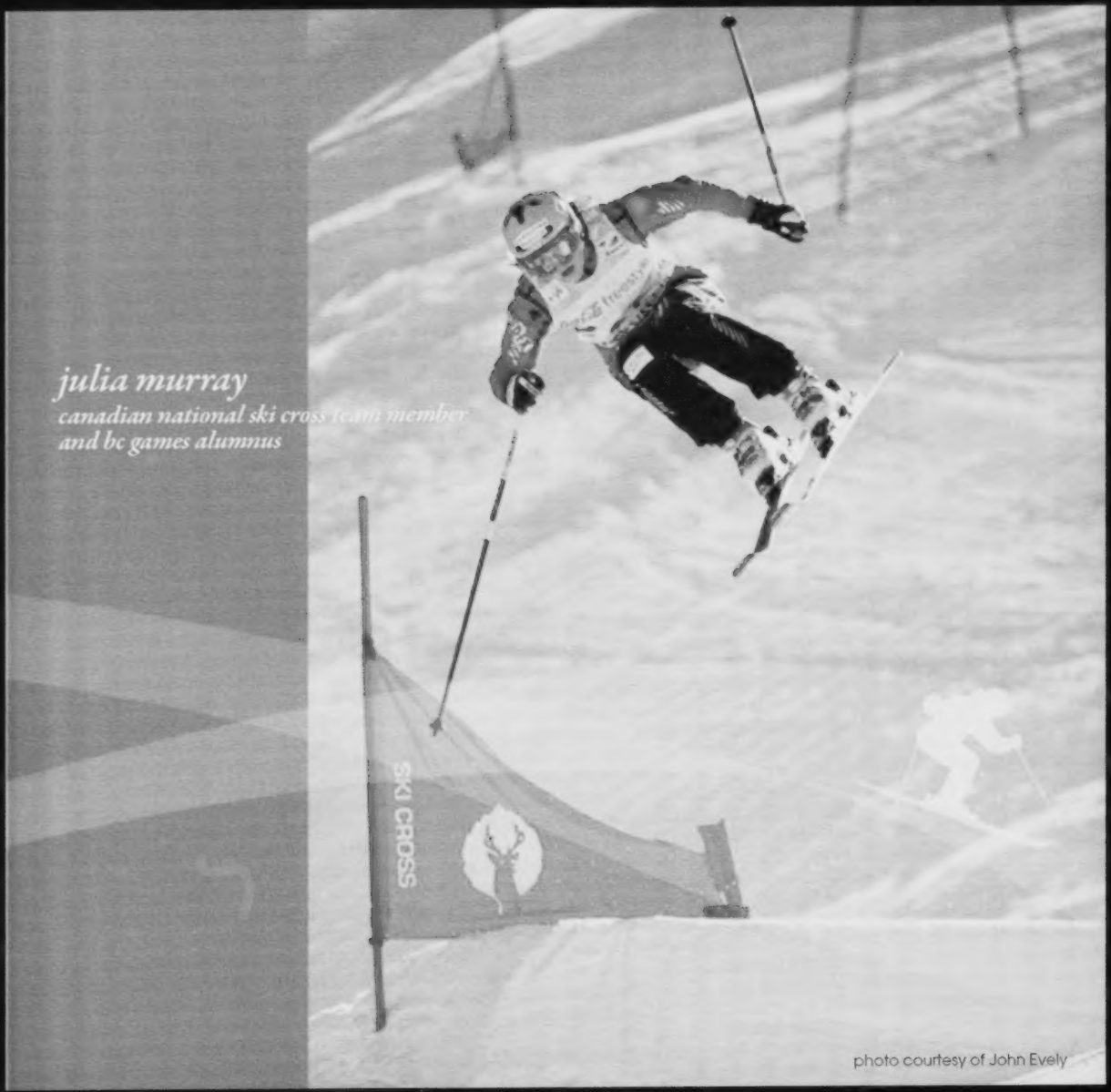
1124	13.6	62%
athletes	average age	female

Podiums and Medals

It is a significant achievement to qualify for the BC Games, but even more remarkable and memorable to earn a gold, silver, or bronze medal.

Brand new medals and ceremonial podiums were unveiled for the 2012 BC Winter Games. In partnership with the FabShop, a legacy from the Vancouver 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games, new podiums were constructed by disadvantaged youth enrolled in the FabShop program.

The medals were designed with Kerr's Recognition to be a significant keepsake for athletes to cherish for years to come.



julia murray

canadian national ski cross team member and bc games alumnus

photo courtesy of John Evely

bc games alumni

The Canadian National Ski Cross Team is brimming with BC Games Alumni. Julia Murray, Kelsey Serwa, and Georgia Simmerling were all alpine ski racers who competed at the BC Winter Games along their road to representing Canada at the 2010 Vancouver Olympic Winter Games.

Ski Cross made its Olympic debut in 2010 and two years later, the popularity of the sport made it a new event at the BC Winter Games as part of the Alpine Skiing competition at Silver Star Mountain Resort. In the Olympic version, four skiers race down the hill in something described as "NASCAR on skis." The race at the BC Games was individually timed allowing the athletes to learn the sport in a safe environment.

Athletes at the BC Winter Games were treated to visits by Olympians and Ski Cross World Championship Gold and Silver medalists, Kelsey Serwa and Julia Murray.

Julia Murray, daughter of "Crazy Canuck" Dave Murray, grew up on skis and her alpine racing career included a trip to the 2002 BC Winter Games in Williams Lake. Julia addressed the athletes at the Opening Ceremony in Vernon.

"I remember being at the BC Games. The Opening Ceremony was such a big deal. For me it was a mini Olympics. If you can keep picturing the Olympics over the next few days, then you are good...because many of you will be there one day."

Due to a knee injury that ended her competitive season, Kelsey Serwa was at Silver Star Mountain Resort during the Games and spent time signing helmets and visiting with the athletes. It was a full circle moment as the reigning World Champion, Kelsey, presented the first-ever BC Games ski cross gold medals to Frances MacDonald of North Vancouver and Finn Isles of Whistler.

Photos from left: Julia Murray addresses the athletes at the Opening Ceremony; Ski Cross medalists at the 2012 BC Winter Games; Julia Murray and Kelsey Serwa at the 2011 World Ski Cross Championships; Kelsey Serwa presents the gold medal to Frances MacDonald.

Black Press

Black Press' ability to cover every corner of the province fits well with the mandate of the BC Games Society as we too want to ensure every British Columbian has an opportunity to know about, and potentially become involved in the BC Games.

Articles carried by the Black Press community papers were as much about reporting the results of competitions, as they were about the narrative side which provided education as to the importance of quality coaching, and how parents and their children can access provincial sport organizations to pursue their favourite sports.

Omineca Express

by Apryl Veld

The BC Winter Games is an invaluable experience for young athletes, says Vanderhoof biathlon coach Paul Collard. "It's a very important development step for them because it's the first multi-sport competition for most young athletes." Collard explains that multi-sport events like the winter games, give athletes a whole different experience. "It's just a completely different feeling than being at a single sport competition." Collard said.

B.C. is lucky to have a number of these high level contests, to offer young athletes the experience needed to springboard them onto national and international multi-sport competitions.

Peace Arch News

by Nick Greenlzan

Ever since she began playing hockey at five years old, Sydney Kreps has played with the boys. But now, with an eye toward her future – which one day, she hopes, includes a college hockey scholarship – the 14-year-old Semiahmoo Secondary student knows that the next step is to play solely with girls. And her first opportunity will come next month, when she laces up her skates with the Fraser Valley (Zone 3) U16 girls team at the B.C. Winter Games, which take place in Vernon Feb. 23-26.

Abbotsford News

by Dan Kinvig

It takes pressure to make diamonds, and Matsqui Blades coach Bette Roberts believes that concept applies to speed skaters as well.

That's why she's particularly pleased that five of her short-track athletes have qualified for the BC Winter Games, which run Feb. 23-26 in Vernon.

"This is a great opportunity for our kids, every couple of years, to have a higher-level competition," Roberts explained. "The pressure of getting into a race in the medal round is valuable.

"The more that you can experience pressure, when you finally get to that final race where it's be-all end-all to get the gold medal at the Olympics, if it doesn't work out, you're not going to explode. It's all a learning curve."

BC GAMES
23
Unleash your potential.

The volunteer Directors of a BC Games Host Community commit an extraordinary amount of time and energy to make the Games happen. For many, it is a once in a lifetime experience to contribute to an event of this magnitude.

dawn tyndall - bc games champion

For Dawn Tyndall, once in a lifetime was not enough. She has accepted the challenge of being a Games Director not one time, but three separate times. In her previous hometown of Nanaimo, Dawn was the Director of Promotions for the 2002 BC Summer Games and followed that up as the Director of Special Events for the 2007 BC Seniors Games. In between those Games, she also took on significant Chair positions with two Directorates for the 2005 BC Disability Games. With a move to Vernon in 2011, her timing was impeccable to bring her extensive experience to the Board of the 2012 BC Winter Games as the Director of Promotions.

Dawn's infectious energy and positive spirit were instrumental to leading a successful team of volunteers. "I can't stress enough for leaders to bond with their team," expressed Dawn. Make each meeting last a specific amount of time and then relax and get to know each other. To me, this is one of the best legacies of the BC Games for a community; like-minded people coming together forming deep friendships and support networks."

With a day job as the morning show host of KISS FM 107.5 Radio in Vernon, Dawn starts her day at 3:30 am. That combined with countless evening meetings made for very long days leading up to the Games.

But her commitment to community and to building a legacy kept her motivated. "It has always been vital to me to stress why the Games are important as much as how to plan the Games." Her favourite part of the Games is when the participants arrive and "you see excited faces all having an adventure and working towards their dreams."

When asked why she keeps volunteering, Dawn replied, "I have a good life and what a wonderful way to say thank you to the universe. It's a way to give back and wow, the rewards are bountiful." The communities of Nanaimo and Vernon and the BC Games Society are lucky to have Dawn Tyndall as an enthusiastic community champion.

"It is an honour to serve my community through this wonderful event that is all about dreaming, working, connecting, and achieving."

Dawn Tyndall, Three-time BC Games Director

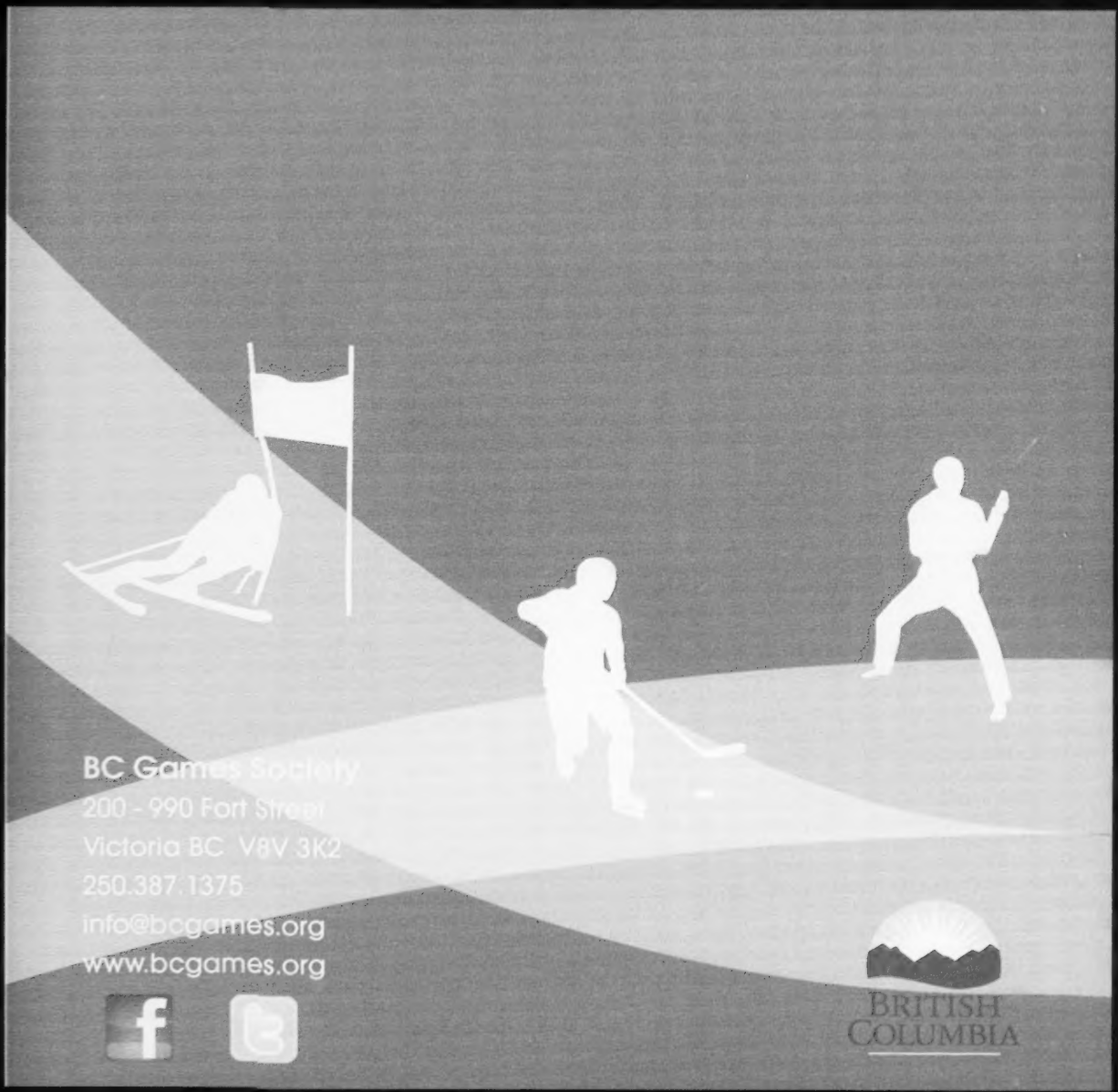
corporate partners

The support from our partners is more than a financial commitment; it is a pledge to help realize the dreams of each BC Games athlete.

Black Press

Global BC

Jazz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